

ART. XI.—*Note on a Victorian Host of the Larval Stages of the Liver Fluke (Distoma hepaticum).*

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[Read 12th December, 1895.]

During the last six months I have made frequent examination of snails from various parts of the colony, with the view of discovering the intermediate host of the common sheep fluke—*D. hepaticum*. The snails have been procured through the Stock Department and have come chiefly from the western and north-western districts. Nothing of importance was revealed by the dissections made during the winter, but about a fortnight ago a large specimen of *Bulinus tenuistriatus* was found containing a very large number of rediæ and cercariæ. Since that time the same forms have been found in several snails of the same species, as well as minute white bodies which I believe to be the sporocysts. The cercariæ correspond in every particular to the measurements and description given by Thomas in the Q. Journ. Mic. Science., Vol. XXIII. The snails from which I have so far obtained these larval forms have been sent from the head waters of the Wimmera. They are very numerous in the creeks and swamps, and this species is perhaps the commonest and most widely distributed species of snail in Victoria. A number of specimens of *Limnæa venustula* from the same creeks have been examined, but have been found free of the larval fluke. Investigations as to the occurrence of similar forms in other parts of Victoria are being continued at the University, and experiments will be carried out with the view of determining their identity with *D. hepaticum*. The above species of snail appears to be a different species from that in which Dr. Cobb discovered the larval forms, as reported by the Age, 2nd Nov., 1895. I am indebted to Mr. G. B. Pritchard for identifying the snails.

NOTE.—Since the above paper was read I have observed the same rediæ and cercariæ in specimens of *B. tenuistriatus* from all the southern and western parts of the colony.